

TURKS EXPECTED TO MAKE STAND

No News Has Been Received, However, of Organized Resistance in the Vicinity of Erzerum.

MEANWHILE RUSSIANS ARE NEARER TREBIZOND

Bombarding Town 15 Miles East of Black Seaport—Increased Military Activity in Galicia.

Although no news has been received of organized resistance by the Turkish forces in the vicinity of Erzerum since the capture of the stronghold by the Russians, Petrograd advices indicate that it is thought possible that the Turks will make a stand on the western edge of the Erzerum valley, eleven miles from the city. It is not thought probable, however, that they will have been able to erect any very powerful defenses there.

The latest official statements from Petrograd report that the Turks are fleeing in disorder. Details of the capture from Russian sources indicate that there was no large capture of men when the city fell. The bulk of the Turkish troops apparently were well on the retreat at the time the inner forts were taken, only the rear guard taking part in that day's fighting.

Meanwhile the Russians are showing activity along the Black sea coast to the north. They are reported to be bombarding Trebizond, fifteen miles east of Trabzon.

There appears to be somewhat greater military activity in Galicia. Petrograd reporting an Austrian offensive on the Dniester river, near Uleczecko, an attack being launched after intense artillery preparation. It is declared that the assault was repulsed.

Indications are that some important military movement by the Germans may be in preparation on the western front. The Belgian frontier received in Amsterdam to the effect that heavy troop movements are in progress in southern and central Belgium, with long trains carrying artillery and infantry to be disposed along the western and southern lines.

While full details of the capture of Erzerum, Turkish Armenia, are still lacking, semi-official advices from Petrograd are to the effect that most of the Turkish garrison made their escape. Thousands of Armenians are reported to have been massacred by Kurds before the evacuation.

There has been considerable artillery activity around the positions taken by the Germans recently from the British in the vicinity of Ypres and several attempts by the British to recapture their last ground by infantry attacks. Berlin says the attacks were repulsed with heavy casualties. With the exception of a French assault against the Germans south of the Somme, which Berlin also declares was put down, the artillery of both sides has been the sole instrument of warfare along the French front.

The Austrians and Italians at various points are still engaged in artillery duels and occasional infantry maneuvers, but no notable victories have been won by either side. Vienna reports less activity than usual on the part of the Italian guns.

In Albania the Austro-Hungarians reinforced by Albanians, presumably irregulars, have occupied Kavaya, which lies eight miles southwest of Durazzo and three miles from the Adriatic sea. By the capture of this town it would seem that the Teutons nearly have Durazzo surrounded. The gendarmes of Albania, who defended Kavaya, made their escape from the town and fled on a ship into the Adriatic.

Ehsad Pasha has been deprived of his rank and moved from the Turkish army list for having assumed the leadership of the provisional government of Albania and joined the ranks of the entente allies.

The latest reports from Erzerum say that the amount of booty, including provisions and ammunition captured in the city by the Russians is enormous. The Turks evidently had prepared for a long struggle and had trapped Erzerum into the main provisioning center in Asia Minor. In addition the city contained countless art treasures of all descriptions bequeathed by the ancient civilizations through which it has passed. The number of guns taken at Erzerum is now estimated at 1,000, most of which were abandoned in the forest or along the roads during the panic fight of the Turkish garrison.

Ottie Green returned to the city today after being out of town for the past week.

MAROONED PEOPLE IN BAD SITUATION

About 2,000, Mostly Negro Plantation Workers, Are Without Food and Have Scanty Shelter—Prevented From Reaching Places of Safety by Rapid Spreading of Flood Waters.

New Orleans, Feb. 19.—Increased apprehension was felt today for the 2000 or more people marooned in the inundated territory west of New Orleans, who are without food and have but scanty shelter. Most of the sufferers are negro plantation laborers who were unable to reach places of safety when the water started flowing through the crevices of the levee of the Mississippi river at Buch Ridge plantation. Reports which reached here early today stated that the Buck Ridge levee had reached a width of nearly 700 feet with a depth of at least 15 feet. The waters, said the report, are pouring through the break in the embankment at the rate of four miles an hour.

A quarter of a semi-circle with a radius of 25 miles from the break is flooded with water to a depth of from six to 15 feet, while beyond is another 25 miles covered with water, ranging in depth from a few inches to one or two feet. According to information received here, the flood will not reach its climax for at least a week, predicted authorities who are working in the inundated sections.

Concordia parish in northeastern Louisiana is covered with a sheet of water with the exception of a small area across the river from Natchez. Floods from the Buch Ridge levee and the back waters from the Red, Black and Old rivers, with waters from the broken levees of the Arkansas river, have dotted northeast Louisiana with several large lakes having numerous lagoons reaching out from them. The Big Lake and lagoons are reported to be drawing closer and it is believed that they will eventually converge into one huge lake covering the parishes of Tensas, Concordia, Franklin and Catahoula, except for a few high spots.

This lake in the extreme would be approximately 85 miles long and 50 miles wide.

Convention With Haiti Will Be Taken Up Next

With Nicaraguan Treaty Approved Senate Will Consider Haitian Treaty, Approval Being Predicted—Feared That Amended Colombian Convention Will Not Be Ratified.

Washington, Feb. 19.—With the Nicaraguan treaty out of the way, administration senators were ready to call up for ratification the Haitian treaty and in turn the amended Colombian treaty. The Nicaraguan convention under which the United States will acquire a Nicaraguan canal route and a naval base in the Bay of Fonseca for \$4,000,000, was ratified by the senate late yesterday.

The Nicaraguan treaty has been pending for more than two years during which time there has been vigorous opposition to its ratification from both sides of the senate. The ratification of the treaty is expected to further cement the friendly relations between the United States and the Pan-American countries.

Prospects are that the Haitian treaty will be approved by the senate. It is feared, however, that the Colombian treaty will not be ratified.

Included in the ratification resolution was a provision declaring that the United States in obtaining the naval base does not intend to violate any existing rights in the Fonseca gulf of Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador, which had protested against the proposed requirement.

Five democratic senators voted against the treaty. They were Chamberlain, Martin, Clarke of Arkansas, Thomas and Vardaman. Fifteen republican senators joined the administration forces in support of the treaty.

Immediately after the senate had acted on the Chamorro, the Nicaraguan minister, said he would at once communicate with his government and that he expected ratification of the convention by his government would soon follow and exchanges made to put the treaty in force.

Greensboro, Feb. 19.—A number of progressive optometrists met in the office rooms of Dr. J. W. Taylor, in the Banner building, Wednesday night for the purpose of organizing a scientific section of optometry for North Carolina. The formation of the North Carolina Scientific Section of Optometry was the result and the following officers were elected: President, Dr. W. J. Taylor, Greensboro; vice president, Dr. A. G. Spingler, Raleigh; secretary, Dr. Fred Tesh, High Point; treasurer, Dr. A. P. Staley, of Winston-Salem. A committee, consisting of Dr. W. J. Taylor, chairman, Dr. A. G. Spingler and Dr. A. P. Staley, was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws.

There were 12 optometrists present for the formation of the section, they having answered the call issued by Dr. Taylor and others and, following the election of officers, scientific papers were read and discussed. The purpose of the section, it is announced, is strictly educational and nothing but scientific problems will be studied.

The next meeting will be held in the offices of Dr. Taylor on March 15, and meetings will be held hereafter at least once per month. New members will be received at each meeting, if the officials are notified.

WINSTON MAN BELIEVES SON KILLED IN MEXICO

Winston-Salem, Feb. 19.—C. A. Hartman of Davie county is investigating the report from El Paso, Tex., that Guy Johnson, the American reported killed by bandits in December last, is believed to be his son, Guy Hartman. If the body is finally identified as that of his son, Mr. Hartman will have it brought to Winston-Salem for interment.

BUNCOMBE SECOND IN THE CORN CLUB REPORTS

Five Thousand Corn Club Boys Are Expected to Enroll For This Year.

West Raleigh, Feb. 19.—Wake county with 200 boys reporting, led the corn club reports which have reached the office of Prof. T. E. Browne, at West Raleigh, for the corn club year of 1915. Following Wake county, Wilkes came next with 159, Buncombe with 153, Johnston with 105, and Surry with 104, making a total yield for these five counties of 13,269 bushels. The average cost of the corn produced was 43 cents per bushel, which represent preparation of land, fertilizer, cultivation and harvesting.

Another interesting feature of the work done last year as compared with that of 1914, was the increase in percentage of boys reporting, which was 37.4 in 1915 as against 21.3 in 1914. The total enrollment last year was 3,504 boys, with 1,318 reporting yields. Fifty of this number made over 100 bushels per acre, and each has received during the past week a gold pin of honor.

The campaign for members this year will be conducted on the same principles as was that of last year. It is thought by Mr. Browne and his workers that the enrollment should easily reach 5,000 boys.

SEN. LODGE STANDS FOR ARMED MERCHANTMEN

Declares Exclusion From the U. S. Ports Would Be Unneutral; Step Toward War.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Senator Lodge, ranking member of the senate foreign relations committee, making a speech today, declared that the abandonment by the United States at this time of the principles that its ports are open to and its citizens free to travel on the merchantmen armed solely for defensive purposes would be an unneutral act and a step toward war. He said that such abandonment would make the United States the ally of the belligerent whose merchant marine had been swept from the seas.

LEVER COTTON FUTURES MEASURE IS REPORTED

Will Permit Hedging in Foreign Contracts for Actual Cotton—Duplicate.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The Lever cotton futures bill was ordered favorably reported by the house agricultural committee today. The bill will be called in the house probably within the next two weeks. The measure is an amended duplicate of the bill which was held to be unconstitutional in the federal court in New York. Section 11 of the bill is amended so as to permit hedging in foreign exchanges against actual shipments or consignments for the sale of actual cotton, regardless of the character of the foreign contract in which the hedging is made.

AMBASSADOR MAYRE'S RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

Petrograd, Feb. 18, via London, Feb. 19.—George T. Mayre, United States Ambassador at Petrograd, has received notification from the state department at Washington that his resignation has been accepted. He is requested, however, to remain at his post until the arrival of the new first secretary of the embassy, Fred M. Dearing, who is on his way to Petrograd from Madrid.

TO TAKE STEPS FOR CONTROL OF FLOODS

Washington, Feb. 18.—Steps will be taken in the near future looking to the control and prevention of flood disasters along the Mississippi and other rivers. President Wilson and his cabinet decided on such action today after thoroughly discussing the situation.

Demands Investigation Of Army Aviation Service

Senator Robinson Charges That This Department Is "Contemptibly Inefficient"—Makes Sensational Statements Concerning Col. Reber, Who Has Control of Aviation Corps.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Sensational charges against the army aviation service, with a demand for immediate investigation by congress, were made yesterday before the senate military committee by Senator Robinson, of Arkansas. He declared that the service was "contemptibly inefficient" and that its head, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Reber, not only was making no effort to improve it, but deliberately was preventing the facts from reaching his superiors.

The senator appeared before the committee with a mass of data, including photographic copies of letters which he said had been exchanged between Colonel Reber and Captain Arthur S. Cowan, commanding the aviation station at San Diego. At least part of this evidence was produced before the court-martial at San Francisco, which recently tried Lieutenant Colonel Lewis E. Goodier, judge advocate general of the western department, accused of improperly altering certain charges filed by other officers against Captain Cowan.

The findings of this court now are in the hands of a special commission of army officers appointed by the acting secretary of war, to make a report to President Wilson.

Senator Robinson read liberal excerpts from his photographs of letters, and quoted Captain Cowan as writing to Colonel Reber that if the anyone outside the signal corps it would be impossible to explain the "rotten way in which the work has been handled." Other letters were produced to show that favoritism was practiced in the promotion of men in the service.

The senator charged that Colonel Reber prompted Captain Cowan to practice "contemptible deceit" toward congressmen who visited the aviation station and that he attempted to set into the annual appropriation bill in connection with the item for the purchase of airplanes a provision for the purchase of "accessories" with which to buy automobiles. He said the col-

HOWELL CASE SETTLED IN 2 WHITE CONVICTS ON "FRENCH LEAVE"

Compromise Reached In Divorce Proceedings and Case Did Not Reach Court.

Waynesville, Feb. 19.—A case this community rejoices over is a settlement by compromise in the case between Mr. and Mrs. Alden Howell, jr., they are separated and besides divorce proceedings much property was involved and a question of alimony would have figured. A settlement has been reached by which their property is divided and each is to sign the other's papers in transferring same. No alimony is to be paid and Mr. Howell is to pay \$25 a month for the support of their daughter until her marriage or until she is 21 years old.

NEGRO WHO WORKED AT CAPITAL 40 YEARS, DIES

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—It was announced today that Governor Craig, Secretary of State Grimes, State Treasurer Lacy and other state officials will attend the funeral tomorrow of Austin Dunstan, a negro employee at the state capitol, who died yesterday. Dunstan was porter in the executive offices for 40 years and was widely known throughout the state.

Raleigh, Feb. 18.—Austin Dunstan, aged 55 years, a negro who has been in the employ of the state at the capitol for 40 years as porter and who was widely known throughout North Carolina died today of pneumonia. His wife is ill with the same disease and is not expected to recover.

OFFICERS ELECTED BY STATE NORMAL CLASS

Greensboro, Feb. 19.—The mid-winter election of class officers has been accomplished by the seniors of the State Normal college and the names of those chosen were announced today. The officers are Miss Tempe Boddie, Durham, president; Miss Frances Sumner, China Grove, vice president; Miss Alberta Monroe, Biscoe, secretary; Miss Mattie McArthur, Parkton, treasurer; Miss Maude Bagwell, West Raleigh, critic.

Although the elections of officers of the Normal classes are always occasions of interest, the final election of the graduating class is uniquely so, because the students consider the presidency of the last half of the year of the senior class is the highest honor within the gift of their fellow students.

BIG CHORUS CO. GIVEN CHARTER

National Festival Chorus Co., of America, Black Mountain as Home, Permitted to Start Business.

\$250,000 IS AUTHORIZED WITH \$2,000 PAID IN

To Give Musical Festivals and Concerts Attracting Great-est Musicians of World—Other State News.

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—The National Festival Chorus of America incorporated with Black Mountain as the home office, a \$250,000 corporation which will begin business with \$2,000 paid in.

The corporation will devote itself to the cultivation of the art and science of music, will give musical festivals and concerts which will attract the greatest musicians of the world to this state if it succeeds in its enterprise. The absence of any spokesman for the new business leaves much to guess as to the scope of the association but it is gathered from the charter that these musical events will be celebrated in various parts of the state.

The incorporators are Walter Thompson, Henry D. Shute, J. S. Kuykendall and G. W. Hinesworth, Winston-Salem; Thomas Woodroffe, Mount Airy; R. O. Alexander, Charlotte; F. S. Westbrook, Asheville, and J. D. Eckles, Black Mountain.

Governor Craig's duty in the Warren-Christy case involved the execution of a woman is being made no plainer to him by the mail that he daily receives.

He has about equal amount of advice both ways. From Trinity college opposition comes written on one of the Greek letter fraternity's stationery and signed by two boys. They are opposing the commutation of the woman.

Mrs. J. E. Sills records herself against clemency to Mrs. Warren because she is a woman. Editor Jimmy Caine appeals for Mrs. Warren and tells the governor that while he advocates pardons but seldom, the governor can by a stroke of the pen take the woman from hell and put her into purgatory. David Shaw of Charlotte lays the woman's whole life to man and recounts the little that the state has done done to give th efallen woman a chance and the less done to punish the man-author of such a woman's shame.

Sanford Martin has written a great deal and appealed to many editors to join in the movement to grant the woman a prison life. Governor Craig has not received any delegations who are interested in Mrs. Warren. He will hear the case as presented by Jones and Clement, attorneys for Mrs. Warren.

Funeral of Engineer Wells. The funeral of Engineer H. L. Wells, who was on the big passenger locomotive that ran into a freight at Franklinton Tuesday morning and killed Jim Holloway instantly, so badly injuring Mr. Wells that he died Thursday evening, was held yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock from the home.

Mr. Wells was pulling the Florida limited, the Sabor's fast train and had the clear track. A freight pulled on the main line party and while going at a terrific speed he struck these box cars. His engine, the largest type in the country, with its 500,000 pounds ploughed through the three box cars and struck the freight engine. Mr. Wells was badly scalded and when caught in his cab by the overturning engine, had no chance of escape.

He leaves a wife and a little daughter. Lieutenant Governor E. L. Daughtridge is in the city and is watching the work of opening his headquarters here. He does not intend to spend a great deal of time at headquarters.

Mr. Daughtridge's son, J. C. Daughtridge, is to be in Raleigh and he will be assisted by Paul R. Cappelie and James E. Carraway. They have taken rooms in the Capital Club building, a splendid reservation for campaign work. In their announcement the managers declare that the campaign will be free from every bitterness and that both the lieutenant governor and his opponent, Attorney General Bickett, will be the same good friends during and after this sharp campaign as they have heretofore been.

Raleigh's government congratulated Greensboro when the papers announced the handsome premium which the city bonds brought yesterday, by putting the two municipalities in the very highest class.

Raleigh's, however, we've township bonds for schools and buyers declared that they brought the highest figure that any bonds of that character had ever brought in the south. The fact that Greensboro stood high was very pleasing to Mayor Johnson and his associates.

Colored Fighters Ready. Col. James H. Young, veteran fire-fighter of the colored race and one of the best fighters in the state, is (Continued on page two).